

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 31, 2007. Claims 1 to 12, 14 to 19, 21, 22, 25 and 26 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 25 and 26 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 13 and 20 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 25 and 26 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 12, 14 to 19 and 21 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177 (Gase). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 20, 23 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 25 and 26 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 25 and 26 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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